Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205968
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:D.E.SIMCOX:MRG : TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY NEA:N.VELIOTES
NEA/RA:J.V.MONTVILLE
ARA:JABUSHNELL
S/S-O:TMARTIN
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O 160159Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205968

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, MX, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER
TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO ASAP. THERE WILL BE NO RPT
NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW. GUIDANCE AND TALKING
POINTS TO BE USED, IF NECESSARY, WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.

1. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING
MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID, FOR I AM AWARE OF THE
SPECIAL INTEREST AND CONCERN THAT YOU AND FOREIGN SECRETARY
ROEL HAVE SHOWN IN OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND
LASTING PEACE IN THAT AREA.

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2. WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND
PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE
INVITATION TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW
EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE
SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION
FOR THE TALKS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS
TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR

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EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION
OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING
THIS MEETING.

3. I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE
HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE
PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFI-
CANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC
MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE
MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES
THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE
AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT
WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD
THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT
WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME
ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE
HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

4. THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN
AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN
NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT
ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242,
THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON
SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL
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OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN
AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO
THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND
PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN
POINT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS
WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION
TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME
AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREE-
MENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE
FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO
EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE
ARE ALL SEARCHING.

6. AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE
EAST NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS
FOR TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE
TO ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT
OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES.
I HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND
FULL SUPPORT IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES,
SINCERELY,
JIMMY CARTER END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PPDC, PDIP, PBOR, US, MX, XF, IS, EG, (CARTER, JIMMY), (LOPEZ PORTILLO Y PACHECO, JOSE)
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